Rome December 4th 1819

My dear Father

I am obliged to trouble you again about the exhibition of my picture of King Lear, which I hope & trust, may I am sure will give you much trouble, as it is sold and now on its way to the purchaser, but for this interruption of exhibiting it. — I had hoped to exhibit it at the beginning of the year, but as my new work cannot arrive in time, I must be content to exhibit my "Lear" at Somerset House, so there will be plenty of time. I reckon that this is about the time of the arrival of it at Bingham & Richards, where you will find six of my Works in all. — The large one of King Lear please to take care for the exhibition, and after they can send it on to Scotland to the owner — you will find it the same one as my former pictures, and when it is in the frame pray do me this favor — Go to my Master and good friend Mr. Bond, and tell him that I shall feel honored if he could my "King Lear" house-room, until the time of exhibition of Somerset House. This would be a kind service to me as I could get the opinion of Mr Bond and his friends which I should prize very much and I am sure turn to account. — But if you see any inconvenience in his not to receive it. If Rice should be the least inconvenience I shall take the ground of my picture being seen at Mr Bonds as he is my first and only Master I ever had. — Make my kind respects

to bind and say I hope one Year for Winter to have the great
pleasure of seeing him in Italy. — And as your English invitation
says, "I have always a bed at his service in Rome" ——————

You will be glad to know that I am still succeeding beyond what
I ever expected when I was a young Shaver, and studied the drawing books
you so kindly brought me, and stole the paper out of your Mother's drawer
to copy them on. I have received many commissions to paint pictures
according to my own fancy: which may still keep me in Italy
You will be glad to know that I have just done a landscape
and figures which is an order, and is so much liked that I had two
offers to purchase it. But you will more pleased to know that the
original study I intend for you, and shall add the figures to it —

You will think it strange that I should be a tenant from England
after 7 years absence. — 'Tis true that I should dearly like to see my Home
and Friends once more, and no time or distance can lessen this feeling in
my heart, and most certain I should have made a visit in these years
but for the great time & money it requires. — I am more & more reconciled
to my sojourn in Italy, since I meet every where such flattering notice
and helping friendship. — I am happy, immensely happy in meeting encouragement
in my darling Painting, in doing pictures of my own fancy, and never reduced to
the drudge of portraits. — Strangers to me, often give me orders, and
pay me at the moment, leaving the subject of the picture & to my own
choice. — This is a reflection of my boyish castle buildings, and when
added to the most marked personal respect when I am known
what can I desire more. — and could I have as much in England
— love every person I know is a debt to me, I am forming a connexion

[illegible] the most distinguished of our Nobility, & to whom I owe so many, that if anything [illegible] and there to be distinguished you know was always my desire.— that is to have the respect of Eight & gifted individuals.— The other Day Lord Holland's son returned here from Paris, and brought me a present of a beautiful Gold chain, worth 10 £.— it is to wear round the neck attached to the watch.— The great Charles Fox was the Uncle of this gentleman.— I could tell you a long list of the most flattering presents I have received, some for my Table, such as China,— Plate, &c,— also I had a Lay-figure to paint drapery on which cost 30 £— so with all these charms added to the most polished and delightful society, you must wonder that I am still tempted to stay.— and I am tempted for another reason — that of saving money, which here I am enabled to do, and yet [illegible] make a figure, which in London would be impossible.— my health is excellent in this beautiful Climate, and my spirits seldom depressed, sometimes indeed I am a victim of Melancholy which comes from absence— If you could see me figuring away in high society, you would not know me for your Son Joseph.— by the bye, my Music is no little help to me, and I have the advantage of having read much, and being gifted as they say in the "Gab"— If any nice Offer of coming to buy land occurs to me again next Summer I shall certainly come and see you, but to return here again, as I am occupied on many works & one a large one of 14 feet by 9.— The Countess of Westmorland I may say is my greatest friend here.— I am just going to paint for her Ladyship a picture of [illegible] listening to David Rizzio's Music. The King is entering with his Assassins to Murder Rizzio.— the Lady is a most Lovely person and does every thing with magnificence.— 'Tis a long time since I heard from you all.— Charles wrote me in the Summer, and a nice letter it was he must be a very promising fellow, as we we all not forgetting myself.— I have had the good fortune to buy an old picture for 7 pence, which the great judges

per day in work 50 £ — I hope I may get 20 £ for it, & I'll be content. —
Remember me to Mr Walker, and Mr & Mrs Alger when you see them, and assure
them that I shall not forget the pleasant days I have dined at Stoke
with them. — I have given orders that the picture done for Powis Castle
may be exhibited at the British Gallery — I have two others to paint for
him — You will see the Exhibition of course, now pray tell me what you
really think of my Praying Girl, and how it is placed, and about
any other works —

We have had some severe weather, but I do not wonder — you must not
suppose you had some cold in London — Do write my dear Father
to me

Believe me my dear Father
Your affectionate Son — Joseph —

Sep 25 1824

J. Phillips

Mr James Smith
Lyon's Inn
Strand
London

EXPOS
DE 25
1824

To
Thomas H. Lewis Esq.
by Messrs. Fox & Co. Messrs. Abbott
72 London Street
London